

ANNEX 8 (ESF-8)

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

PRIMARY: Department of Health and Environmental Control

SUPPORT: Governor's Office, Office of Veterans Affairs; Office of the Adjutant General, SC National Guard; Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing and Division of Fire and Life Safety; SC Law Enforcement Division; Department of Disabilities and Special Needs; Department of Mental Health; Department of Vocational Rehabilitation; Department of Education, Office of Transportation; Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services; SC Funeral Directors Association; SC Coroners Association; SC Hospital Association; SC Medical Association; SC Pharmacy Association; American Red Cross

I. INTRODUCTION

State assistance under this function consists of health and medical service resources (including transportation) temporarily realigned from established programs having coordination or direct service capability for medical care, public health and sanitation, behavioral health, and deceased identification and mortuary services.

- A. **MEDICAL CARE** refers to emergency medical services (including field operations and first responders), resident medical and dental care, doctors, nurses, technicians, pharmaceuticals, supplies, equipment, hospitals, clinics, planning and operation of facilities, and services.
- B. **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION** refers to the services, equipment, and staffing essential to protect the public from communicable diseases and contamination of food and water supplies; development and monitoring of health information; inspection and control of sanitation measures; inspection of individual water supplies; disease vector and epidemic control; immunization; laboratory testing.
- C. **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**, to include crisis counseling and psychological first aid, refers to the professional personnel, services, and facilities to relieve mental health and/or substance abuse problems caused or aggravated by a disaster or its aftermath.
- D. **DECEASED IDENTIFICATION AND MORTUARY SERVICES** refers to the identification and disposition of human remains.

II. MISSION

To ensure emergency provision of the state's governmental resources for medical and personal care; to facilitate and/or coordinate the provision of private resources for medical and personal care for disaster victims; to supplement and support disrupted or overburdened local medical service personnel and facilities; to perform deceased identification and mortuary services operations; and to relieve personal suffering and trauma.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. DHEC is responsible for the coordination of all ESF-8 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness/mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-8 SOP. All ESF-8 supporting agencies will assist DHEC in the planning and execution of the above. All ESF-8 personnel will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into all ESF-8 planning and response operations.
- B. Coordination with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations will be performed to ensure operational readiness in time of emergency.
- C. DHEC shall provide an Emergency Management Coordinator or Alternate, designated by the Commissioner, to represent him at the SEOC, who, on the behalf of, or in the Commissioner's absence from the SEOC, shall act to meet the health responsibilities.
- D. In coordination with, and in support of, the State Assessment Team (SAT), ESF-8 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local emergency management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency.
- E. Medical Care: Provide or coordinate emergency and resident medical and dental care, doctors, nurses, technicians, pharmaceuticals, supplies, equipment, licensed ambulance service, hospitals, clinics and first aid units, planning and operation of facilities, and services. Stage medical assets and deploy as needed to affected areas. Assists with coordination of patient relocation and establishment of emergency medical care centers.
- F. Public Health and Sanitation: Coordinates the services, equipment, and staffing essential to protect the public from communicable diseases and contamination of food and water supplies; development and monitoring of health information; inspection and control of sanitation measures;

inspection of individual water supplies; surveillance; disease vector and epidemic control; immunization; and laboratory testing.

- G. Behavioral Health: Manages psychological first aid, crisis counseling and mental health assistance under the direction of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and the Department of Mental Health, and in coordination with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, American Red Cross, local clergy, and other private resources.
- H. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.
 - 1. The county coroner has overall responsibility for care, identification, and disposition of human remains within his jurisdiction. The state will provide assistance at the request of the county government.
 - 2. ESF-8 shall contact authoritative organizations, local government entities and county health officials to assess the magnitude of need, determine appropriate location for mortuary and temporary facilities and specify equipment or materials deemed necessary. ESF-8 will coordinate security issues with ESF-13 (Law Enforcement).
 - 3. ESF-8 will assure the procurement of supplies and equipment (i.e. refrigeration units, body bags, stretchers, embalming supplies, transportation, etc.), as required to maintain appropriate condition of the deceased until proper identification, notification and disposition can be determined. Use of existing morgues and forensic personnel will be coordinated with state personnel and with dental/medical school personnel, as necessary.
 - 4. In the event a deceased victim has no surviving family or next-of-kin, the state through the appropriate county coroner, shall assure that a dignified burial is provided by the local government with jurisdictional responsibility. Burial assistance to families of deceased veterans will be provided through the SC Office of Veterans Affairs. SC Funeral Directors Association will assist with family counseling.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include but are not limited to:

A. Preparedness

1. General.

- a. Develop mutual support relationships with professional associations and other private services and volunteer organizations that may assist during an emergency or disaster.
- b. Participate in state exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-8 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
- c. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
- d. Ensure all ESF-8 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All ESF personnel will complete all required NIMS training, as outlined in the 2006 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training guidance.

2. Medical Care.

- a. Coordinate the provision of medical and dental care.
- b. Identify and coordinate the deployment of doctors, nurses, technicians and other medical personnel to disaster areas.
- c. Maintain inventory lists of medical supplies, equipment, licensed ambulance services, hospitals, clinics and first aid units.
- d. Plan for establishment of staging areas for medical personnel, equipment, and supplies.
- e. Develop and maintain plans to implement Strategic National Stockpile operations in South Carolina.
- f. When traditional health care facilities are not available, plan for establishment of emergency medical care sites.
- g. Develop protocols and maintain liaison with elements of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), to include Federal Coordinating Centers (FCC) in South Carolina, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), the National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), the National Nurse

Response Teams (NNRT), and the Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT).

- h. Assist in the organization of a SC disaster medical capability, which can be deployed to a disaster area on short notice and provide emergency medical care in either a fixed facility or field environment.
 - i. Plan for requesting federal medical assistance teams and coordinate for their support while operating in South Carolina.
 - j. Assure that health care facilities (i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, youth and adult medical care facilities) develop patient reduction, evacuation, and relocation procedures.
 - k. Identify agencies, organizations, and individuals capable of providing support services or assistance including South Carolina Hospital Association and South Carolina Medical Association.
- 3. Public Health and Sanitation.
 - a. Develop procedures to protect the public from communicable diseases and contamination of food, water, and drug supplies (including veterinary drugs).
 - b. Develop procedures to monitor public health information.
 - c. Develop sanitation inspection procedures and protocols to control unsanitary conditions.
 - d. Develop procedures for inspection of individual water supplies.
 - e. Develop procedures for identification of disease, vector, and epidemic control.
 - f. Develop emergency immunization procedures.
 - g. Identify laboratory testing facilities.
- 4. Behavioral Health.
 - a. Develop procedures for rapidly providing assistance to individuals and families, to include organizing and training

rapidly deployable crisis counseling and other behavioral health teams.

- b. Develop support relationships with government agencies, professional associations, private services, and volunteer organizations to provide behavioral health and substance abuse assistance during disasters.

5. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.

- a. Develop plans for location, identification, removal and disposition of the deceased.
- b. Establish a system for collecting and disseminating information regarding victims and have the operational capability to deliver the information in a field environment in coordination with ESF-15 (Public Information).
- c. Develop protocols and maintain liaison with Disaster Mortuary Operational Readiness Teams (DMORT) of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS).
- d. Identify agencies, organizations, and individuals capable of providing support services for deceased identification including South Carolina Funeral Directors Disaster Committee and South Carolina Coroners Association.
- e. Maintain a description of capabilities and procedures for alert, assembly and deployment of state mortuary assistance assets.

B. Response

1. General.

- a. Coordinate information releases to the public with the public information officer in ESF 15 (Public Information).
- b. Coordinate with federal agencies as required.
- c. Maintain records of expenditures and resources used for possible later reimbursement.

2. Medical Care.
 - a. Coordinate the delivery of health and medical services as outlined in paragraph IVA2 above.
 - b. Arrange for the provision of medical personnel, equipment, pharmaceuticals, and supplies.
 - c. Assist the coordination of patient evacuation and relocation.
 - d. Implement Strategic National Stockpile operations, as needed.
 - e. Arrange for National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) services, to include patient evacuation assistance, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT), as needed.
 - f. In conjunction with SC Hospital Association and other appropriate organizations, identify hospital and nursing home vacancies statewide.
 - g. Assist with hazardous materials response.
3. Public Health and Sanitation.
 - a. Manage the public health and sanitation services as outlined in paragraph IVA3 above.
 - b. Determine need for health surveillance programs throughout the state.
 - c. Issue Public Health notices for clean up on private property.
4. Behavioral Health: Coordinate for the provision of psychological first aid and recovery services to individuals, families, and communities.
5. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.
 - a. Initiate the notification of deceased identification teams.
 - b. Retain victim identification records.

- c. Coordinate Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) services.
- d. Coordinate state assistance for next-of-kin notification.

C. Recovery

1. General.

- a. Anticipate and plan for arrival of, and coordination with, FEMA ESF-8 personnel in the SEOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- b. Ensure ESF-8 members or their agencies maintain appropriate records of activities and costs incurred during the event.

2. Medical Care.

- a. Assist with restoration of essential health and medical care systems.
- b. Assist with restoration of permanent medical facilities to operational status.
- c. Assist with restoration of pharmacy services to operational status.
- d. Support emergency services infrastructure until local system is self-supporting.
- e. Assist with emergency pharmacy and laboratory services.

3. Public Health and Sanitation.

- a. Monitor environmental and epidemiological surveillance.
- b. Continue long-term emergency environmental activities.

4. Behavioral Health: Coordinate the management of continuous mental health, crisis counseling and recovery services, and substance abuse assistance to individuals and families.

5. Deceased Identification and Mortuary Services.
 - a. Continue the operations necessary for the identification and disposition of the deceased and their personal effects.
 - b. Receive the required death reports.
 - c. Request reimbursement for expenditures, if authorized.
 - d. Provide a final fatality report.

D. Mitigation

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Support requests and directives resulting from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Department of Health and Environmental Control

1. Identify, train, and assign DHEC personnel to staff ESF-8 in the SEOC.
2. Notify all ESF-8 supporting agencies upon activation.
3. Develop mutual support relationships with professional associations and other private services and volunteer organizations that may assist during emergencies or disasters.
4. Coordinate and direct the activation and deployment of state agencies, volunteer health/medical personnel, supplies, equipment and provide certain direct resources under the control of DHEC.
5. Develop and conduct drills and exercises which test the medical and behavioral health response to disaster situations.
6. Assure that licensed health care facilities develop patient reduction, evacuation, and relocation procedures.
7. Manage the medical care for standard and special medical needs shelters to include providing interim nursing support to all shelters.

The American Red Cross will provide nursing support to standard shelters according to the current MOU.

8. Manage the medical care of the special medical needs shelters to include reimbursing the facility for replacement of medical supplies (when necessary); ensure sufficient medical staff are available to open shelters and approve admissions; maintain and ensure confidentiality of medical records; assist sheltered in making arrangements for essential medical equipment, as the situation allows (patients should bring medicine and equipment with them if possible); evaluate and arrange for special medical diets.
9. Coordinate waivers of rules and regulations regarding licensed professional personnel.
10. Coordinate waivers of rules and regulations regarding licensed health care facilities.
11. Maintain and provide a listing of licensed health care facilities including names of Administrators and 24 hour phone numbers.
12. Identify and provide bed capacity and availability status of all hospitals throughout the state.
13. In conjunction with SC Hospital Association, determine operational status of hospitals.
14. Provide nursing personnel to assist in shelters, tent cities, public health clinics, etc.
15. Provide staff and services for monitoring public health conditions.
16. Restrict consumption of water supplies in the event of contamination and assist in inspection of water supplies.
17. Implement quarantine procedures, as appropriate.
18. Coordinate deployment of doctors, nurses, behavioral health professionals, technicians and other medical personnel to disaster areas.
19. Maintain current inventory lists of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, equipment, licensed ambulance services, hospitals, and clinics.

20. Develop protocols and maintain liaison with elements of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS), to include Federal Coordinating Centers (FCC) in South Carolina, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT).
21. Develop rapidly deployable behavioral health teams.
22. Implement Strategic National Stockpile operations as needed.
23. Provide food inspectors to assist in the inspection of restaurants and provide technical advice to mass feeding sites.
24. Arrange for National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) services, to include patient evacuation assistance, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT), and Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) as needed.

B. Governor's Office, Office of Veterans Affairs

1. Identify, train, and assign SC Office of Veterans Affairs personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Assist with deceased identification of veterans through medical and dental records and provide liaison to US Veterans Affairs, as required.

C. Office of the Adjutant General, SC National Guard

1. Identify, train, and assign SCNG personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Identify and provide a list of SC military medical resources to the DHEC emergency preparedness coordinator.
3. Assist with patient evacuation (ground and air).
4. Provide temporary non-refrigerated morgue facilities.

5. Assist with security, equipment, facilities, and personnel to implement Strategic National Stockpile operations.

D. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

1. Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing
 - a. Assist with temporary licensing of health care workers, including crisis counselors.
 - b. Provide lists of medical personnel including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists.
2. Division of Fire and Life Safety
 - a. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
 - b. Provide temporary morgue facilities at the SC Fire Academy.

E. SC Law Enforcement Division

1. Identify, train, and assign SLED personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Provide assistance for the collection or rapid transportation of samples for analysis.
3. Provide technical assistance, equipment, laboratory, and body location documentation services for deceased identification and mortuary services.
4. Provide chaplains for death notification services and counseling.
5. Assist with security to implement Strategic National Stockpile operations.

F. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.

2. When available, provide dental and other disabilities and special needs personnel.
3. Provide accessible transportation assets.

G. Department of Mental Health

1. Identify, train, and assign DMH personnel to staff ESF-8 operations during periods of activation.
2. In coordination with DHEC, manage disaster mental health assistance support within ESF-8.
3. Provide crisis and substance abuse counselors to facilitate recovery.
4. Provide nurses and other medical professionals as available.
5. Provide medical facilities, as available.

H. Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 in the SEOC.
2. Provide crisis counseling personnel to facilitate recovery.
3. Provide handicapped accessible transportation assets.
4. Provide warehouse space for temporary storage of medical supplies.
5. Provide temporary alcohol and drug treatment bed space.

I. Department of Education, Office of Transportation

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.
2. Provide ambulatory and non-ambulatory transportation for health and medical services as outlined in Annex 1-Transportation.

J. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and

prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.

2. Provide substance abuse counseling personnel.

K. SC Funeral Directors Association: Provide mortuary services including personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, and obtaining information from the families of deceased.

L. SC Coroners Association: Provide mortuary services including personnel, supplies, equipment, transportation, and obtaining information from the families of deceased.

M. SC Hospital Association:

1. Assist with identification of hospital bed information.

2. Assist with determining operational status of hospitals.

N. SC Medical Association: Assist with acquisition of physicians for emergency operations.

O. SC Pharmacy Association

1. Assist with acquisition of pharmacists for emergency operations.

2. Assist with acquisition and distribution of pharmaceuticals for emergency operations.

3. Coordinate appropriate storage of pharmaceuticals.

P. American Red Cross

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-8 during periods of activation.

2. Provide disaster mental health personnel.

3. Manage the mental health response during an aviation disaster.

VI. FEDERAL INTERFACE

A. This annex is supported by National Response Plan ESF-8, Public Health and Medical Services. The US Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for directing ESF-8 operations. ESF-8 representatives will

deploy with the Advance Emergency Response Team (ERT-A) to the SEOC or other designated location.

- B. Federal health and medical assistance provided by ESF-8 includes:
1. Assessment of Public Health and Medical Needs
 2. Health Surveillance
 3. Medical Care Personnel
 4. Health/Medical Equipment and Supplies
 5. Patient Evacuation
 6. Patient Care
 7. Safety and Security of Human Drugs, Biologics, Medical Devices, and Veterinary Drugs
 8. Blood and Blood Products
 9. Food Safety and Security
 10. Agriculture Safety and Security
 11. Worker Health and Safety
 12. All Hazard Public Health and Medical Consultation, Technical Assistance, and Support
 13. Behavioral Health Care
 14. Public Health and Medical Information
 15. Vector Control
 16. Potable Water/Wastewater and Solid Waste Disposal
 17. Victim Identification and Mortuary Services
 18. Protection of Animal Health
- C. All ESF-8 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Plan (NRP) and the corresponding annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be

limited to the make up, functions and responsibilities of the Emergency Response Team – Advanced Element (ERT-A), Interagency Incident Management Groups (IIMG) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).

- D. State ESF-8 will coordinate with Federal ESF-8 to obtain federal assistance as required. However, under current SC ESF responsibilities, selected Federal ESF-8 responsibilities listed above are not the responsibility of State ESF-8. State ESF-17, Animal Emergency Response, will coordinate with Federal ESF-8 concerning agriculture safety and security, and the protection of animal health.